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## **Governor Lemanu meets with Toa o Samoa at Fort Shafter Community Center, Hawai'i**



On Friday, February 17, 2023, an ensemble of Samoan service members enlisted in different branches of the military had the opportunity to meet and engage the Honorable Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga in an open panel discussion. Governor Lemanu thanked everyone in attendance who took time out of their schedules to attend. Fellow soldier Alex Lin acknowledged Sergeant (SGT) Adrienne Paselio who will be graduating with her Bachelor's degree and has been accepted to become an officer in the Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) ROTC Program. Governor Lemanu extended his sincerest congratulations and added that SGT Paselio's accomplishments, along with many other sons and daughters of Samoa, go to show their willingness to seek and attain a prosperous life. Furthermore, she not only takes upon herself her family name but also all of Samoa. "Nothing comes free, all good things are accomplished through hardship, tears, sweat, blood; physically and mentally," stated Honorable Lemanu.

The questions are as follows:

- Are there any government-implemented programs or initiatives specifically for military veterans or retirees who return home and want to work for the American Samoa Government?

- Is American Samoa looking into owning and operating its aircraft for inter-island travel as well as a route to Hawai'i? Is it possible for the United States Postal Service to have a centralized location for mail and parcel distribution on the East side of the island?
- Are there any grants or incentives available from the Department of Education for our people in American Samoa to prepare and expose the youth to different curriculums directed towards furthering their education instead of being limited to the military?
- Suggestions for the Department of Education to host a college fair inviting various colleges and universities to provide High School students the opportunities to explore their options.
- Is there a Government financial report available to the public?

Following the last inquiry a request was made to better explain the citizenship status for Samoan people joining the military as it was not an easy process to obtain.

Governor Lemanu responded to the majority of the questions with input from his panel which included Director Malemo Tausaga, Director Tuiafono Sua , and Director Solia Mutini. In closing, the audience united in song with a prayer offered by Director Malemo Tausaga.

In attendance were:

Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga, First Lady Ella Mauga, Director Malemo Tausaga, Director Solia Mutini, Director Tuiafono Vaiuli Sua Jr., Alex Lin, SGT Tyrone Travers, LCpl. Kereti Faiai, LCpl. Ferrin Manuleleua, PO2 Jonah Tuato, LCpl. Daniel Taufagu, SGT Rapi Leota, Chris Tauleafeu, SGM Michael Moana, SGT Sheilajacinta Autele, Pene Vaisagote, SGT Taumafaalofi Elisara, Lt Col. James Faleafine, SGT Adrienne Pselio, Michael Tuimavave, Timoteo Solaita, CPT Agaalofoa Tauane, SSG Bulamaiviti Amosa, SFC Toleafoa, SSG Faima Tua, 1SG Langkilde, Ioane Levaula, MAJ Helaman Fepulea'i.

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